

Remarks

The various parts of the Office Action (and other matters, if any) are discussed below under appropriate headings.

Petition

A renewed Petition to Accept an Unintentionally Delayed Claim under 35 USC §1.120 is being submitted with this response. The Petition requests that the present application be given the benefit of Application No. 10/133,867 (now U.S. 7,194,295).

Amendments

In a telephone discussion on April 7, 2010 between the Examiner and the undersigned, the Examiner suggested several additional amendments to the claims, and these additional amendments are presented herein.

The amendments to the claims as set forth herein are based on the assumption that the amendments filed on March 29, 2010 were not entered. Similarly, the amendment to the specification is based on the assumption that the amendment to the specification filed March 29, 2010 was not entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

With respect to the art rejections, reference is made to the reply filed on March 29, 2010.

Unaddressed issues

The absence in this reply of any comments on the other contentions set forth in the Office Action should not be construed to be acquiescence therein. Rather, no comment is needed since the rejections should be withdrawn for at least the foregoing reasons.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, request is made for timely issuance of a notice of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
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